

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of the above-referenced application based on the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 19, 30, 60, 61, 70, 71 and 75, as presented below. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), the amended claims are rewritten with all changes included. In addition, as permitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(3), a clean version of claims 1, 19, 30, 60, 61, 70, 71 and 75, is submitted as a single amendment paper, which is attached to this response. Also attached is the compare copy of the claims, marked to show all of the changes relative to the previous version of the claims.

1. A device for hygienic ultrasonic interrogation [from] of a skin interrogation site, comprising:
  - a) a holder for an ultrasonic probe adapted for hygienic skin-interrogation of tissues subjacent to a skin interrogation site, said holder is adapted to fit at least an interrogation surface of said ultrasonic probe, and said holder includes 1) a securing portion for securing said holder to said ultrasonic probe and 2) an interrogation window in acoustic alignment with at least a section of said interrogation surface, and
  - b) a sonolucent film covering said interrogation window, wherein the distance between the interrogation surface of the probe and the interrogation window is less than approximately 1 cm.

19. [The device of claim 1, further comprising ] A device for ultrasonic interrogation from a skin interrogation site, comprising:

a plurality of holders for an ultrasonic probe adapted for skin-interrogation of tissues subjacent to a skin interrogation site, said holder is adapted to fit at least an interrogation surface of said ultrasonic probe, and said holder includes 1) a securing portion for securing said holder to said ultrasonic probe and 2) an interrogation window in acoustic alignment with at least a section of said interrogation surface, and a sonolucent film covering said interrogation window, [a plurality of said holders] wherein each holder has an exterior contour and an interior contour and said exterior contour is [designed] configured to fit into [said] an interior contour of another holder.

30. A [device, comprising a] hygienic removable holder for an ultrasound probe, said removable holder comprising a proximal region for interrogation of an exterior interrogation surface, said proximal region is adapted for acoustic alignment with an ultrasound source or detector, said proximal region includes an interrogation surface that permits interrogation with an ultrasound probe and a distal region slidably engagable with said ultrasound probe while maintaining said acoustic alignment, wherein the distance between the interrogation surface of the probe and the interrogation window is less than approximately 1 cm so the probe is close to but not directly touching the interrogation surface during an ultrasound interrogation.

60. An injection molded device, comprising a rigid, plastic holder for an ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder is of a generally predetermined shape and three dimensional dimensions without an inserted ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder comprising an interrogation region for interrogation of an exterior interrogation surface, said

interrogation region is dimensioned to snugly fit over a housing for said ultrasound source or detector while permitting interrogation through said interrogation region and said interrogation region engages with said housing, wherein the holder includes a predetermined quantity of acoustic gel material.

61. The injection molded device of claim 60, [further comprising] wherein the predetermined quantity of acoustic gel material comprises a machine applied acoustic gel layer on said interrogation region to facilitate acoustic coupling between said interrogation region and said ultrasound source or detector.

70. An ultrasound system [A device], comprising:

- a) a rigid, plastic holder for an ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder is of a generally predetermined shape and three dimensional dimensions without an inserted ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder comprises an interrogation region for interrogation of an exterior interrogation surface, said interrogation region is dimensioned to snugly fit over a housing or frame for said ultrasound source or detector while permitting interrogation through said interrogation region and said interrogation region engages with said ultrasound source or detector housing or frame,
- b) an ultrasound probe mechanically compatible with said rigid, plastic holder, wherein the holder configured to be mechanically compatible with a plurality of differently sized ultrasonic probes, and

- c) an ultrasound [system] device for ultrasound interrogation, signal processing and conveyance of interrogation information.

71. A therapeutic kit, comprising:

- a) [an interrogation device of one of the foregoing claims] a rigid, plastic holder for an ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder is of a generally predetermined shape and three dimensional dimensions without an inserted ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder comprises an interrogation region for interrogation of an exterior interrogation surface, said interrogation region is dimensioned to snugly fit over a housing or frame for said ultrasound source or detector while permitting interrogation through said interrogation region and said interrogation region engages with said ultrasound source or detector housing or frame, and
- b) a health care product in at least one dosage or a medical treatment; wherein said interrogation device can assist in monitoring a therapeutic effect of said at least one dosage

75. [An] A device, comprising a rigid, plastic holder for an ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder is of a generally predetermined shape and three dimensional dimensions without an inserted ultrasound source or detector, said rigid, plastic holder comprises an interrogation region for interrogation of an exterior interrogation surface, said interrogation region is dimensioned to snugly fit over a housing or frame for said ultrasound source or detector while permitting interrogation through said interrogation region and said interrogation region